

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (presently amended) A communication system comprising:

a communication path capable of conveying communication signals, the communication path comprising a cable having two substantially parallel separated conductors terminated with a resistance corresponding to a characteristic impedance of the communication path,

a plurality of communication devices, each communication device adapted to receive ~~or~~ and generate VHF or UHF communication signals, ~~and~~

a near field antenna associated with ~~the~~ each communication device, the near field antenna being provided sufficiently near to the communication path to couple VHF or UHF communication signals to or from the communication device to the communication path, and wherein an impedance of each new field antenna reflected onto the communication path is small compared to the characteristic impedance of the communication path.

2. (original) A communication system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the near field antenna is adapted to limit electromagnetic radiation therefrom.

3. (previously presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the communication path is provided in the very near field of the near field antenna.

4. (previously presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the near field antenna includes elongate conductors provided on a non-conductive planar substrate.

5. (presently canceled)

6. (presently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 5 1 wherein the conductors are separated by an insulting web.

7. (presently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 5 6 wherein the ~~cable~~ communication path comprises a ribbon cable.

8. (presently canceled)

9. (presently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 1 wherein ~~the system includes a~~ each communication device is directly coupled to the communication path.

10. (previously presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1 wherein essentially no power is radiated from the communication path.

11. (presently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system allows bidirectional communication between ~~the~~ each communication device and the communication path.

12. (presently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ each communication device is moveable along the ~~power supply~~ communication path and the near field antenna for each communication device moves with the communication device and relative to the communication path to allow the communication device to receive or generate VHF or UHF communication signals to or from the communication path.

13. (presently amended) An HID/IPT system comprising:

a power supply path adapted to be energized by a power supply to provide an electromagnetic field associated with the power supply path;

~~one or more~~ a plurality of moveable pick-up devices associated with the power supply path and adapted to receive electrical energy from the electromagnetic field to supply a load;

a communication path capable of conveying communication signals, the communication path comprising a cable having two substantially parallel separated conductors terminated with a resistance corresponding to a characteristic impedance of the communication path;

a communication device provided on each of the ~~one or more pick-ups~~ plurality of moveable pick-up devices, the communication device being adapted to receive ~~or~~ and generate VHF or UHF communication signals; and

a coupling unit associated with ~~the~~ each communication device, the coupling unit being capacitively coupled to the communication path to couple VHF or UHF communication signals to or from the communication device to the communication path whereby the one or more pick-ups may communicate with each other or with a further device, and wherein an impedance of each coupling unit reflected onto the communication path is small compared to the characteristic impedance of the communication path.

14. (original) An HID/IPT system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the further device interfaces with a control system.

15. (previously presented) An HID/IPT system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the further device is directly connected to the communication path.

16. (previously presented) An HID/IPT system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the coupling unit comprises a near field antenna.

17. (previously presented) An IPT/HID system as claimed in claim 13 wherein essentially no power is radiated from the communication path.

18. (presently amended) A communication method including comprising ~~the steps of:~~

providing a communication path capable of conveying communication signals, the communication path comprising a cable having two substantially parallel separated conductors terminated with a resistance corresponding to a characteristic impedance of the communication path;

providing a plurality of communication device, the devices, each communication device including a near field antenna capacitively coupled to the communication path wherein an impedance of each near field antenna reflected onto the communication path is small compared to the characteristic impedance of the communication path, and either,

a) imposing a VHF or UHF communication signal on the communication path and using the near field antenna to provide the signal to one or more of the communication ~~device~~ devices, or

b) using one or more of the communication ~~device~~ devices to generate a VHF or UHF communication signal(s) and using the near field antenna(s) to provide the signal to the communication path.

19. (presently amended) A communication system comprising:

a communication path capable of conveying communication signals, the communication path comprising a cable having two substantially parallel separated conductors terminated with a resistance corresponding to a characteristic impedance of the communication path.

a plurality of communication ~~device~~ devices adapted to receive ~~or~~ and generate VHF or UHF communication signals, and

a near field antenna associated with ~~the~~ each communication device, the near field antenna being provided sufficiently near to the communication path to couple VHF or UHF communication signals to or from the communication device to the communication path, the near field antenna including a shielding device to limit electromagnetic radiation, and wherein an impedance of each near field antenna reflected onto the communication path is small compared to the characteristic impedance of the communication path.

20. (original) A communication system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the communication path is provided in the very near field of the near field antenna.

21. (previously presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the near field antenna is inductively coupled to the communication path.

22. (previously presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the near field antenna comprises a partial, single or multiple turn of a conductive material.

23. (original) A communication system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the conductive material comprises a thin metal track provided on a non-conductive planar substrate.

24. (original) A communication system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the conductive material comprises one or more turns being approximately 5 mm to 15 mm in a lateral dimension and approximately 20 mm to 60 mm in a longitudinal dimension.

25. (previously presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the shielding device comprises a screen, and the screen is provided on one side of a coupling unit and the communication path is provided on an opposite of the coupling unit.

26. (previously presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the shielding device comprises a screen of a material having a low magnetic permeability, and the screen is provided on a side of the planar substrate opposite to a side of the substrate on which the metal track is provided.

27. (presently canceled)

28. (presently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim ~~27~~ 19 wherein the conductors are separated by an insulating web.

29. (presently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim ~~27~~ 28 wherein the ~~eable~~ communication path comprises a ribbon cable.

30. (presently canceled)

31. (presently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 19 wherein ~~the system~~ includes a each communication device is directly coupled to the communication path.

32. (previously presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 19 wherein essentially no power is radiated from the communication path.

33. (presently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the system allows bidirectional communication between ~~the~~ each communication device and the communication path.

34. (presently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 19 wherein ~~the~~ each communication device is moveable along the ~~power supply~~ communication path and the near field antenna for each communication device moves with the communication device and relative to the communication path to allow the communication devices to receive or generate VHF or UHF communication signals to or from the communication path.

35. (presently amended) An HID/IPT system comprising:

a power supply path adapted to be energized by a power supply to provide an electromagnetic field associated with the power supply path;

~~one or more~~ a plurality of moveable pick-up devices associated with the power supply path and adapted to receive electrical energy from the electromagnetic field to supply a load;

a communication path capable of conveying communication signals, the communication path comprising a cable having two substantially parallel separated conductors terminated with a resistance corresponding to a characteristic impedance of the communication path;

a communication device provided on each of the ~~one or more~~ plurality of pick-ups, ~~the~~ each communication device being adapted to receive ~~or~~ and generate VHF or UHF communication signals; and

a coupling unit associated with ~~the~~ each communication device, the coupling unit being provided sufficiently near to the communication path to couple VHF or UHF communication signals to or from the communication device to the communication path whereby the one or more pick-ups may ~~communication~~ communicate with each other or with a further device, wherein an impedance of each coupling unit reflected onto the communication path is small compared to the characteristic impedance of the communication path, and the coupling unit including a shielding device to limit electromagnetic radiation.

36. (original) An HID/IPT system as claimed in claim 35 wherein the further device interfaces with a control system.

37. (previously presented) An HID/IPT system as claimed in claim 35 wherein the further device is directly connected to the communication path.

38. (previously presented) An HID/IPT system as claimed in claim 35 wherein the coupling

unit comprises a near field antenna.

39-41. (previously canceled)